

In the Claims:

- 1.(original) A method of deactivating Der p and/or Der f allergens, the method comprising dispersing into an airspace an allergen-deactivating amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the “deactivant”), the deactivant being dispersed as a vapour from a vessel in contact with a hotplate, the hotplate being at a temperature of at least 100°C.
- 2.(original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hotplate is at a temperature of at least 130°C.
- 3.(currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hotplate is at a temperature of up to 300°C.
- 4.(original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hotplate is at a temperature of up to 250°C.
- 5.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over an extended period.
- 6.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the deactivant is selected from:
  - a terpene hydrocarbon;
  - a citrus oil;
  - a mint oil;
  - bois de rose oil;
  - oil of jasmine;
  - frankincense;
  - oil of bergamot;

oil of lemon grass;  
or a component thereof.

- 7.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon.
- 8.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the deactivant comprises  $\beta$ -pinene.
- 9.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.
- 10.(currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the vessel is an upwardly open vessel.
- 11.(original) The use of apparatus for deactivating Der p and/or Der f allergens at a locus, the apparatus comprising an allergen deactivant within a vessel, and a heat source used to accelerate the vaporization of the deactivant, the heat source being a hotplate in contact with the vessel, the hotplate being at a temperature of at least 100°C.
- 12.(original) An apparatus for deactivating Der p and/or Der f allergens comprising a vessel containing an allergen deactivant and a hotplate in contact with the vessel, the hotplate being at a temperature of at least 100°C.
- 13.(cancelled)